

The President's Daily Brief

31 January 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In northwestern Laos, the Communist Pathet Lao threaten soon to be in control of the entire Nam Beng Valley. (Page 1)

The West Germans

(Page 2)

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The Soviets

Cuba

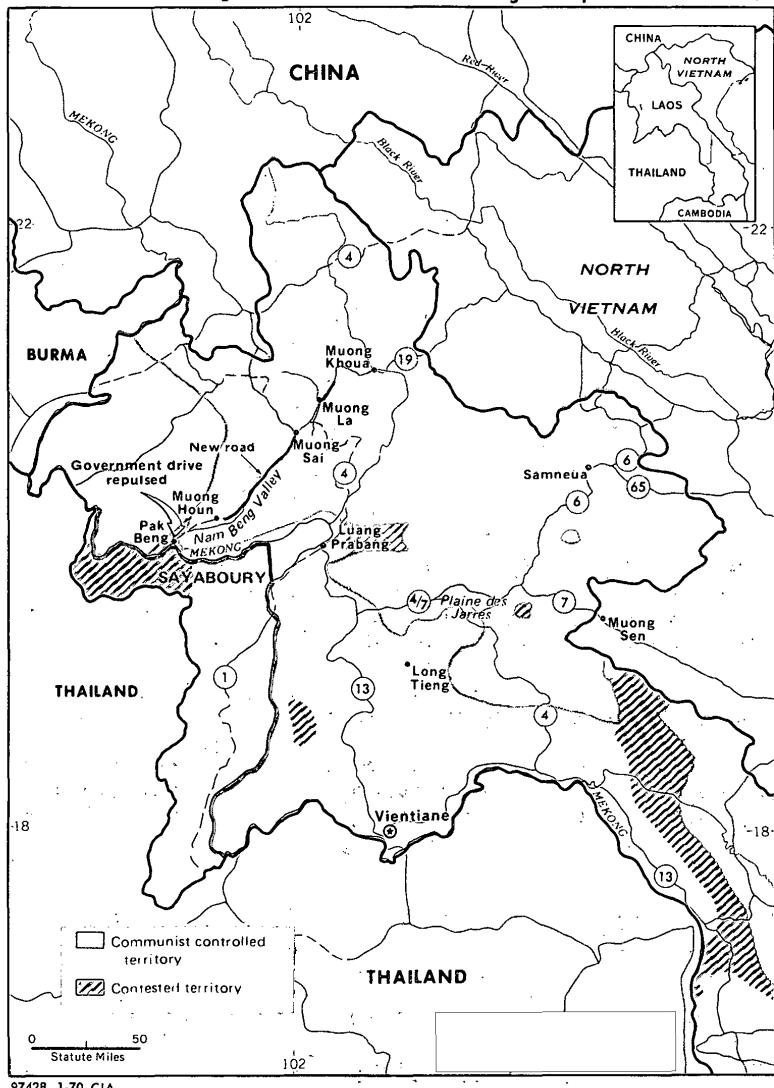
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There was serious rioting yesterday in the Philippines and India. (Page 4)

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Communists Increasing Efforts to Control Nam Beng Valley in Northern Laos



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LAOS

The Pathet Lao, who have been moving troops into the Nam Beng Valley since last summer, threaten soon to be in control of the entire area. The government's presence has been reduced to one major outpost about eight miles west of the Mekong River village of Pak Beng. The recent efforts of government troops to improve their position have been hampered by the large influx of refugees fleeing the enemy forces.

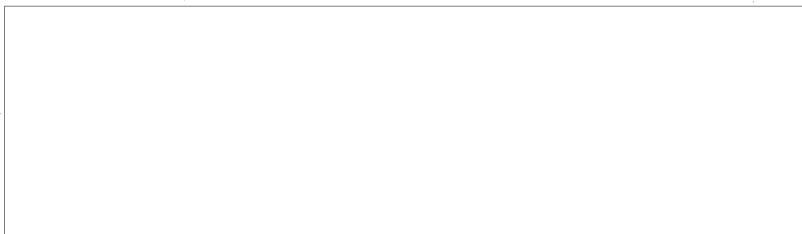
The timing of the Communist campaign, which has been gaining momentum since the capture of Pak Beng in April 1969, suggests that it was undertaken at least in part to facilitate the Chinese road building project. Pathet Lao propagandists have been saying that the road will reach Pak Beng before the rainy season begins next summer. As of 8 January, the road was motorable to the outskirts of Muong Houn, less than 30 miles from the Mekong River.

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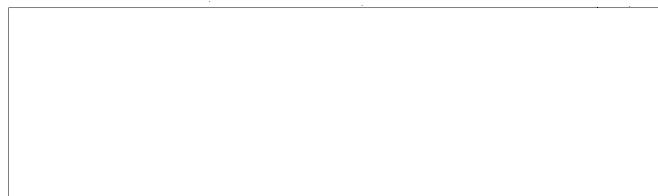
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WEST GERMANY

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USSR-CUBA



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NOTE

Riots: Severe riots broke out yesterday in the Philippines and India. As many as 20,000 Manila students protested what they believe is a plan by President Marcos to lift the constitutional ban on a third term. In northwestern India, Mrs. Gandhi's announcement that the disputed city of Chandigarh will be given to the Punjab set off widespread demonstrations in Haryana State, the other claimant.

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